

The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading News Source

\$2.99

Dallas, Texas, Wednesday, April 15, 2020

DallasNews.com

CORONAVIRUS

Local airlines to receive nearly \$14B in federal aid



Smiley N. Pool/Staff Photographer

Dallas Love Field is set to receive \$53 million from the CARES Act, which included \$10 billion in funding for airports, many of which are facing massive debt service payments based on passenger projections that won't be reached this year.

American and Southwest reach deals for grants, loans

By KYLE ARNOLD
Staff Writer
kyle.arnold@dallasnews.com

American and Southwest airlines finalized deals Tuesday with U.S. Treasury officials to take as much as \$14 billion in federal grants and loans to cover payrolls and keep the carriers alive during unprecedented drops in air traffic from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fort Worth-based American Airlines will receive \$5.8 billion, including \$4.1 billion in direct grants and a \$1.7 billion low-interest loan backed by warrants that can be converted into the company's shares. It al-

CARES Act grants to airports		
Airport		Total
DFW International		\$299,199,046
George Bush Intercontinental		\$149,187,874
Austin-Bergstrom International		\$58,735,130
Dallas Love Field		\$53,813,334
William P. Hobby		\$50,866,213
San Antonio International		\$39,708,109

SOURCE: Federal Aviation Administration

Staff Graphic

so plans to apply for a \$4.75 billion loan available to airlines.

Dallas-based Southwest Airlines said it'll get \$2.3 billion in grants and a \$1 billion low-interest loan backed by warrants. Southwest has not indicated if it'll seek other government loans.

"This is fantastic news for the American Airlines team," said a note to American Airlines employees from CEO Doug Parker and President

A team of government officials has created a strategy to reopen the economy. **5A**

Infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci says the country isn't ready to begin reopening the economy. **5A**

The U.S. government has begun sending \$1,200 relief checks to Americans. **6A**

The North Texas Food Bank will again distribute free food Thursday at Fair Park. **6A**

An appeals court allows medically induced abortions in Texas during the pandemic. **1B**

Mostly sunny, cool

5

H 64
L 38

Metro, back page

NATION & WORLD

Obama formally backs Biden

Former President Barack Obama endorses Joe Biden. **3A**

Key conservative loses in Wisconsin

A conservative justice backed by President Donald Trump loses his race in Wisconsin. **3A**

Virus tests emergency powers

Federal system splits clout from D.C. to local level

By TODD J. GILLMAN
Washington Bureau
tgillman@dallasnews.com

WASHINGTON — Does President Donald Trump really have "total" authority to reopen the economy by lifting stay-home orders issued by states? Hardly anyone outside the White House believes that.

Could Texas — which already has troopers at the Louisiana border demanding details on where arrivals will self-quarantine — seal

its borders entirely? Maybe.

Like no crisis in the last century, the COVID-19 pandemic is testing the emergency powers of government at all levels, and spotlighting some of the least litigated aspects of the state-federal relationship.

Vacation spots in Colorado and North Carolina have banned out-of-state property owners from hunkering down in their own mountain and beachfront getaways.

Drivers entering Texas, Florida and other states face checkpoints unfamiliar to generations of Americans.



Mandel Ngan/Agence France-Presse

President Donald Trump says his authority is "total." Scholars and governors beg to differ.

See **COVID-19** Page 15A

Trump cuts off payments to WHO during the pandemic

He claims health agency failed to stop spread of coronavirus

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Tuesday he was cutting off U.S. payments to the World Health Organization during the coronavirus

pandemic, accusing the organization of failing to do enough to stop the virus from spreading when it first surfaced in China.

Trump, who telegraphed his intentions last week, claimed that the outbreak could have been contained at its source and that lives could have been saved had the United Nations health agency done a better job investigating

the early reports coming out of China.

"The WHO failed in its basic duty and must be held accountable," Trump said at a briefing. He said the U.S. would be reviewing the WHO's actions to stop the virus before making any decision on resuming aid.

There was no immediate comment from the Geneva-based organization. But when asked about possible U.S.

funding cuts during a regular U.N. briefing earlier Tuesday, WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris responded, "Regardless of any issues, our work will go on."

Trump said the U.S. will continue to engage with the WHO in pursuit of "meaningful reforms."

See **TRUMP** Page 9A

Nursing homes hit hard

Up to a third of Texas' deaths have occurred in long-term care centers

By LAUREN MCGAUGHY
Staff Writer
lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com

AUSTIN — Up to 1 in 3 known coronavirus-related deaths in Texas occurred in a long-term care facility, underscoring the threat the virus holds for the state's elderly and most vulnerable residents.

According to new information that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission released to *The Dallas Morning News*, 16% of the state's nursing homes — 198 facilities across the state — reported that one or more residents or staff members had tested positive for the virus. Of the state's 2,002 assisted-care facilities, 52 disclosed a confirmed infection.

As of Monday, 70 people had died of COVID-19 in nursing homes across the state, and assisted-living facilities reported 24 deaths since the week of March 8, the health commission confirmed. The statewide death toll stood at 288 Monday.

Tracking the spread of the coronavirus in Texas has been difficult because these figures are in constant flux. There is a lag between when the health commission receives virus reports from long-term care facilities, which report directly to that agency, and when the Department of State Health Services updates its statewide death counts, so the totals aren't directly com-

See **TEXAS'** Page 10A

10 die in Dallas County

Increase is biggest in a single day as COVID-19 death toll jumps to 42

By DANA BRANHAM and NIC GARCIA
Staff Writers

Even as Dallas County announced its highest death toll in one day, officials said Tuesday that they saw signs the coronavirus curve was flattening.

County Judge Clay Jenkins predicted the county could reach its peak of cases late this month or in early May but said this is no time to ease up on social distancing, he said.

"I cannot stress to you how important it is that you don't let off now," he said. "The reason we're getting good news from the medical folks — that you're flattening the curve — is because you're making good personal decisions."

The risks remain high, though, as Tuesday's report of 10 new deaths showed.

Dr. Philip Huang, the county's health director, said the latest deaths may reflect infections contracted a week or two ago.

"It's certainly possible that we may see more of that," he said, adding that higher numbers of deaths have been seen in other communities.

See **DALLAS** Page 10A

INSIDE			
Lottery	2A	Classified	6-8B
Nation/World	3-4A	Jumble	6B
SportsDay	11-14A	Obituaries	10B
Editorial	17A	Dear Abby	1E
Opinion	16A	TV	4E
Autos	6B	Comics	2-4E

©2020, The Dallas Morning News

7 83 197 00001